

Thomas Paine – Eastham Land Records 1650 - 1745

Thomas Paine arrived in Plymouth Colony from England in 1635 at age 23. By 1639 he was working as a carpenter in Yarmouth. His first wife Elizabeth (1616 - 1645) died in Yarmouth shortly after birth of their second child.

About 1648 Thomas married Mary Snow (1630 - 1704) of Eastham. Mary was the daughter of Nicholas Snow (1599 - 1676), a founder of Eastham, and Constance Hopkins (1605 - 1677), a Mayflower passenger as a teenager. Thomas and Mary had nine children. Thomas, Mary and her parents Nicholas and Constance Snow all most likely are buried in unmarked graves in Cove Burying Ground in Eastham.

Thomas owned horses and cattle but his primary occupation was building windmills and watermills including the windmill which stands today on the Town Green in Eastham. He held several responsible town positions including Constable, Surveyor of Highways, Sealer, Deputy, Selectman and Rate Maker. He served multiple one year terms for several of these positions. He often was appointed to committees for laying out land boundaries and settling land disputes and to special projects such as building a new meeting house in 1678.

1658

Granted to Thomas Paine meadowland at Boat Meadow abutting the meadows of Joseph Harding and Thomas Williams. PDF P19.

1659

Granted to Thomas Paine three-quarters of an acre of meadow at Billingsgate now lawfully possessed by John Mayo. The property ran from Mark Snow's boundary to a marked pine tree at the mouth of the brook. PDF A110, M237, S27.

Thomas Paine purchased from William Walker four acres for a house lot near land of Thomas Rogers and near the south side of the swamp. The northwest and southwest corners of the property were marked by a great white oak and a white oak blown over. PDF A185, M91, M102, S6.

Granted to Thomas Paine fifteen acres of upland at Pochet next to Nicholas Snow's land and near the Cove. Bounds were defined by marked white oak trees. PDF A193, M102, S10.

Granted to Thomas Paine two and one-quarter acres at Boat Meadow bounded by John Jenkins property on one side and Thomas Williams property on the other side and running to the creek. PDF A193, M102, S11.

Granted to Thomas Paine three-quarters of an acre at Rock Harbor. The property was near the head of the creek and bounded by the creek and by property of Daniel Cole. PDF A193, M102.

1660

Granted to Thomas Paine a parcel of upland and swamp lying between land which Paine bought from William Walker and Nicholas Snow's fence. PDF A193, M102, S11.

1669

Thomas Paine sold to John Freeman five acres of upland lying by the pond near the bounds of the Indian Lands at Saquatucket. PDF M38.

1670

Granted to Thomas Paine twelve more acres for a total of twenty acres at Great Namskaket. This grant was because his great lot was not so good land and was ten acres short. The land was on the south side of Great Namskaket next to land of Nicholas Snow. PDF M38, M39.

Thomas Paine sold to John Freeman five acres of upland lying on the southwesterly side of Namskaket. The land was near land of Lt. Joseph Rogers and Mark Snow and near a little swamp and the cartway. PDF M38.

1672

Granted to Thomas Paine five acres adjoining his lot by the seaside near the Indian Land at Saquatucket. The land was lawfully possessed by John Mayo. PDF M39.

1673

Granted to Thomas Paine ten acres on the northwest side of Duck Creek at Little Billingsgate lawfully possessed by John Mayo. PDF A110.

Granted to Thomas Paine a neck of upland next to his fifteen acres at Pochet. The land was next to Young's Cove. PDF A193.

1677

Thomas Paine sold fifteen acres at Pochet to John Young for nine pounds. The land was next to land of Nicholas Snow and was near the Cove. PDF A244, M242, S44.

Thomas Paine purchased from Thomas Brewster eight acres of upland near the southerly end of Pochet. Paine's land was between eight acre lots purchased from Brewster by Richard Higgins and by Joseph Rogers. The Paine lot was marked with a rock and a square piece of timber. PDF M40, S105.

Granted to Thomas Paine a one and one-half acre lot near the Indian Lands in the Satucket area. The Paine land was next to land owned by Giles Hopkins. PDF M263.

Granted to Thomas Paine five acres of land next to the Muddy Pond above Daniel Cole's land. PDF P40.

1680

Granted to Thomas Paine six acres near John Doane's tar kiln. The property was near the Cedar Swamp and on the highway from Town to the head of Great Namskaket. Two red oaks, a white oak and a pine tree were marked to define the boundaries. PDF A123.

1684

Granted Thomas Paine about twenty-six acres of upland on the northerly side of Kescayoganset River and pond. Boundaries were marked by a great branched white oak, a stone set in the ground, a small white oak tree and the river and pond. PDF A193, M103.

Granted to Thomas Paine a parcel of sedge next to property of Jonathan Jenkins and between two Sampson's Islands on the southern side of Pochet. PDF A193, M103.

These two 1684 grants were in consideration of the great costs Thomas Paine had building two grist mills for the use of the Town. PDF A193, M103.

1689

Thomas Paine sold to John Freeman five acres of upland by the pond at Satucket near the Indian Lands. PDF M38.

1700

Granted to Thomas Paine all the common meadow at Boat Meadow between the meadow of Capt. Samuel Freeman and the lower end of the meadow called the Acres. PDF P93.

1703

Granted to Thomas Paine four acres of meadow next to the creek at the southern end of Pochet Island. PDF A270, M147.

Granted to Thomas Paine, Jonathan Sparrow Jr. and Joshua Higgins five acres of land at Pochet high meadow near the beach. PDF A275, M157.

Granted to Thomas Paine four acres of land in the middle flat of the town flats bounded by lots of Jeremiah Smith, Joseph Myrick and Thomas Rogers. PDF A279, M165, S51.

1706

Granted to Thomas Paine two parcels of land near other Paine land at Kescayoganset in exchange for three parcels of Paine land on Sampson's Island. One parcel was at the northerly end of the island and two parcels were at the southerly end of the island. This land was to become Town Common land for the town to "quietly and peaceably enjoy". PDF A289, M53.

1707

Granted to Thomas Paine a lot of six acres from a marked tree at the little maple swamp to another marked tree and running into the woods. This grant was recorded after Thomas Paine died. PDF S104, S105.

The land owned by Thomas Paine described in these records amounts to about 150 acres. By 1745 thirteen more Paines received Eastham land grants.